

# UNION COUNTY STAR AND LEWISBURG CHRONICLE.

BY O. N. WORDEN AND J. R. CORNELIUS.

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THE STAR AND CHRONICLE.  
MONDAY, AUG. 1, 1859.  
To Be, or not to Be?  
After President Buchanan came to Bedford, the Pittsburgh Post and another leading Leeches paper in our State made a formal announcement of him for re-election. Much excitement was created by this presentation, for a time. But J. H. has taken counsel, and wisely concludes to not risk Van Buren's fate. He sees that the East, West and North will choose the next President. He knows how Douglas, Packer, Forney, Hickman, &c. would stab him. He fears a worse defeat than John Tyler's. And so he has—formally—and officially—withdrawn from the field!

Another Game of Haddess.  
Late arrivals from Costa Rica state that at Chiriqui gold idols and trinkets were found in some Indian graves. Whereupon a great excitement was attempted to be fanned, by rumors that Spaniards in days of yore had there buried heaps of gold, and every Indian grave was a mine. If there be or be not anything in the rumor, hundreds of the lazy, the reckless, the unprincipled, the dupes of every idle lie, will rush to Chiriqui, to make fortunes by robbing Indian graves! They'll risk the dangers of the deep, of fevers, of starvation, of revolutionary, guerrilla wars, of assassination, of centipedes, &c. &c., all in the hope that by invading the sacred tombs of the dead they can find among their putrid and moldered remains, gold! It—like Pike's Peak, &c.—will doubtless eat up more money than it gets; and more Americans than Indians' bones will be picked, too!

"THE PRESIDENT MONTHLY"—W. W. Hall, Editor. New York: H. B. Price, 5, Everett House.—This is a new 32 page magazine, of which the July No. is really excellent. Its price is \$1.50 a year—rather high for the amount of matter it contains, but we know no magazine of a better quality of reading, we believe all original. It is just the thing needed, but should come much cheaper to reach the masses. We believe the Editor is also the editor of the popular and useful "Hall's Journal of Health." We extract a few of the shorter items from the "Presidential Monthly." For the month of July, 1859, has a population of over five millions, and Alexandria near four hundred thousand; its cultivatable area is seventeen thousand square miles, while the area of New York is nearly three times as large.

DIET AND QUIET, are said, by "Hall's Journal of Health," to be the most efficient remedies in the bowel complaints of Summer—eating nothing but rice parched brown, like roasted coffee, and prepared for the table in the usual way.

WASHING CLOTHES.—A handful of refined borax in ten gallons of boiling water, is a saving of one-half of soap; it softens the water, without impairing the texture of the clothing; it is especially good for cambrics, laces, crinolines, &c., if a stronger solution is used.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.—The second in the United States seems to have been established at Allentown, New Jersey, in 1805, by the Rev. E. Page, of Trenton, called the "Sober Society," with fifty-eight signatures. The first, in 1789, at Litchfield, Conn.

WHITWASH for cut doors: one ounce of white vitriol, four pounds of good fresh lime, and three ounces of table salt, in as much water as will give it the consistency of good thick cream.

THE GERMANIC CONFEDERACY, in eight hundred and fifty-eight, contains, in round numbers, twenty millions of Protestants and twenty three millions of Roman Catholics.

NEWSPAPERS in the United States are said to number about four thousand, of which some five hundred are published daily. Not so many of this last, we think.

DRYED FRUIT.—It is said, that a handful of sassafras bark mixed with a bushel of dried fruit, will preserve it from worms for years.

HAIR NUMBERS.—In a blonde, 140; brown, 100, 140; black, 102, 360; red, 88, 710—counted by a German.

NEBRASKA.—The Republican Central Committee of Nebraska have called a State Convention for the nomination of candidates for Delegate in Congress and Territorial officers, to meet in Omaha city on the 24th of August. All persons opposed to the present Administration and the extension of Slavery are invited to join in the election of delegates to the Convention.

## An Hour in Independence Hall.

BY S. H. F.

The bright sun is shining gladly, and the gay squirrels are chasing each other around the trunks of these fine shade trees, eating peanuts from the hands of fair children, crowds of whom are playing merrily along the gravel walks. Dozens of negligent looking men, young and old, are sitting on the little backless stools, planted here and there, looking idly at these happy groups of merry children, and with envious eyes on the well fed and dazy nurses who are enjoying the sport with their young wards; while, around the windows of the Court room, which fence in one side of this pleasant square, crowds of men and boys, generally of the lowest sort, are lounging—smoking, chewing, spitting, swearing—conversing in groups with a knight of the green hack here, or consulting a policeman there, on some nice point of criminal law. (If I were disposed to be funny, I should say, consulting "their own," but punning is vulgar; indeed, I have a sly notion that I sacrificed a fortune once by playing on a lady's name, and am very cautious, ever since, how I indulge in that sort of wit.) To be brief, gentle reader, I am lounging in Independence Square, Philadelphia, and within a few feet of the very spot from which the Declaration of Independence was first read to the public. If you peep through those green blinds on the right, you can see hanging there the chandelier which lighted up that very room on the evening of July 24, 1776.

As many of the readers of the Chronicle may not have been favored with a sight of that old chamber, if they have no objection "I'll put them through."

No "trouble" at all, my dear "Stars and Chronicles." I have not an earthly thing else to do, and it will quite relieve me of the insinuations of a certain nameless old gentleman who is represented as making himself continually busy in "finding some mischief still," &c., &c., so come along!

You see the venerable Superintendent is ready to admit us into this sacred spot, and to show us around. As I have been here before, I'll act the discerning myself, and save him the trouble.

A plain old room is this, but crowded with memories, and memorials, dear to every American. From that chandelier streamed down the light of many a wax candle on the heads of the venerable men of the Continental Congress. In those two leather-covered arm-chairs sat the truth-loving and faithful Secretary, Charles Thompson, and the dignified President, John Hancock; and on that piece of granite stood the man who first read, to the public, the Declaration.

Mr. Lossing, in his valuable work, "The Field Book of the Revolution," rather knocks the history of this slab on the head, on what authority, I cannot at present say. He says, "From the platform of an observatory, erected near the Walnut street front of the State House, by Rittenhouse, many years before, for the purpose of observing a transit of Venus, John Nixon read the Declaration to a vast concourse of people gathered from the city and surrounding country."

At this plain desk with drawers, the philosopher, mechanic, politician—Franklin—posted his books, wrote his letters, and many of his wise sentences; signed his checks, paid his journeymen, and thought out his wonderful plans. It was his office table, but it has been robbed of much of its interest by scraping, polishing, and re-covering with bright green baize. What would you not give, if like the famous table of Wartburg, it had been permitted to retain but one or two of its inkspots!

This low, narrow seated bench, once stood in Christ Church. In it has sat many a notable man, and against that back has leaned in holy devotion the brow of Washington! It is a portion of his pew, and has borne a weight such as the rock of Scio can not bear.

He looks upon that old "clapper," which was the first to proclaim to the world our nation's birth. The iron crown of Stephen becomes a humble beside that iron tongue! How many thousands look on that rough piece of wrought iron, shapeless and rusty, every year, without stopping to reflect for one moment on its glorious mission! Eighty-three years ago, my friend, it started a vibration which tingles through your nerves at this day as you reflect on your glorious inheritance. Should the sad event ever come, it is a consolation to feel that it will be the office of tolling a knell for our sacred trust betrayed, and the deeds of our forefathers forgotten in the grave of our liberties.

But the prominent object is the Old Ball itself. It stands on an emblematic pedestal in the middle of the room, and is protected from clipping, whittling, thieving vandalism, by an iron railing. What a grand old relic it is! We have been familiar with it since many years before it was brought down to the hall; when it used to hang away up in the steeple, under the stairs, in a dark little sort of cock-loft, and where very few ever saw it. Some years ago it was brought down to its present quarters, after an attempt had been made to restore its tone, and here it rests, at last accessible to the public. How we have sat and mused over the old rusty thing till we could fairly see the old shad-bellied finger who broke its tons on that memorable afternoon, eighty-three years ago, and here the shouts of the quail mob gathered in this passage and under the old walnut trees, while the joyful words went from mouth to mouth, "They have done it! they have done it!" Done it! Yes, they did it—nobly, boldly! and this old bell first told it—no pun, my dear friend—to the world.

The history of the bell itself is interesting, and I will tell it briefly. Its original was a bell imported from England for the State House, in 1762, which was cracked on its first trial after its arrival. It was recast in Philadelphia, in 1763, by Pass and Stow, under the direction of Isaac Norris, Esq. then Speaker of the Colonial Assembly. Around its crown, together with the names of the founders and date, it bears this prophetic motto—

"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

And it was the first to proclaim that liberty. I have not the data at hand, but I think it was again cracked, either on the Washington centenary, or the election of Jackson to the Presidency, and it has been silent ever since. When the British army approached Philadelphia, in 1777, it was taken down from the old wooden belfry and hidden till the danger had passed. Shall invading foe ever threaten it with destruction again?

The wonder to me, at this moment, is, that, through so many years of neglect it has escaped utter annihilation, and that it has not long ago been made into cane-heads and vest-buttons for common council-men and their friends.

These are the principal "relics" in this venerable chamber, at present, belonging to the locality itself. There is one other which I had almost forgotten, but which I will "dig in" here—a piece of the "Charter Oak." As some of your young readers may not be familiar with its history, I will briefly transcribe it. In 1683, James the Second, one of the smallest men morally and intellectually who ever sat on the throne of Great Britain, issued writs of *quo warranto*, requiring the several colonies of North America to appear by representation before His Majesty's Council, to show by what authority they exercised certain privileges, &c.—in short, to show why the Charters of said Colonies should not be given up, and they formed into a number of Provinces, over all of which should be placed a Governor General—a creature of the said detestable monarch, who was afterward dethroned at the Bayne by the Prince of Orange—who should make laws and collect taxes more in accordance with Jimmy's ideas of government than those North American, Protestant heathen were likely to do.

The Colony of Connecticut remonstrated, but to no purpose, for a decree had gone forth to annul the Charters, and one Sir Edmund Andross was appointed the first Governor-General. Connecticut positively refused to give up her Charter. Sir Edmund was determined to have it, and while the Assembly was in session, in Hartford, he went down there from Boston, with a company of soldiers, and demanded the document. The members received him with the greatest respect, and coolly debated the subject till night, while the Royal Governor waited, cursing their cool imperturbability. I have no doubt. After dark, the Charter was brought in and laid on the table around which they sat. Sir Edmund stepped up to seize the document, but, like the dork's half dollar, they "had only laid it there to try him," for on a sudden the lights were extinguished; the crowd outside raised a shout, for they seemed to be in the secret; a number entered the hall, and among them Capt. Wadsworth, of Hartford, who seized the Charter, ran out of the hall and deposited it in the hollow trunk of a large oak-tree fringing the brow of the Commonweath.

of the Hon. Sam'l Wyllis. (That oak tree will be for ever known as the "Charter Oak," and this crooked piece of timber is a portion of it.) The candles were soon re-lighted in the hall, and order was restored, but Gov. Andross had to go back without the Charter!

Here let me close this rambling paper. You perceive these walls are covered with portraits, many of them rare, all interesting; at some other time, after this Sunday question has been settled, and this infidel crowd scattered, who are not pleasant to look at or listen to, we'll return, and I'll describe some of them.

## DAYBREAK.

A wind came up out of the sea,  
And said: "I'm not a make from me!"  
It heaved the hills, and cried: "Sail on!"  
Ye mariners, the night is gone!  
And hurried landward, far away,  
Crying: "Awake, it is the day!"  
It said unto the forests: "Shout!"  
"Hail ye your leafy banners out!"  
It touched the wood-bird's folded wings,  
And said: "O bird, awake and sing!"  
And over the farms: "O channels!"  
"Your claret flows, the day is near!"  
It whispered to the flocks of corn:  
"How down, and hail the coming morn!"  
It shouted through the beehive tower:  
"Awake O bee, proclaim the hour!"  
It crossed the churchyard with a sigh,  
And said: "Not yet in quietude!"

## What the Birds Do.

Farmers! read over the list given below of what a few families of birds are doing every day for the public good, and then say honestly whether you don't know several fellows in your neighborhood going about with their guns who are really not serving the community as well as the little feathered families, celebrated by Mr. C. M. CLAY, of Kentucky, in the following article, which he communicated to the *Country Gentleman* of Albany, from which we take it. Twenty-five millions of caterpillars and insects destroyed in one year on a single farm of thirty acres, is a pretty good year's work. In that period many well-known men, so far from doing any public or private good, are really spreading mischief by their business—are they not?—quite equal in amount to the benefits conferred by the God-given instincts of the beautiful and useful birds.

Mr. Clay says:

"At daybreak I estimate that four hundred songsters break forth into one grand jubilation of mingled song on my thirty acres of fruit and pleasure grounds. Among these I note the catbird, the bell martin, the dove, lark, and quail, the sparrow and humming bird, robin and jay, the house wren and barn swallow, and many varieties of orioles, woodpeckers, sapsuckers, &c. To-day, my mind running upon the use of birds, I took my position about fifteen feet from the nest of an oriole, built in the top of a peach tree twelve feet high, to observe their habits. The nest is formed of blades of blue grass, worked into basket form on the limbs of the peach tree acting as braces. This variety has the female of a dusky bluish yellow—the male black-headed and blackish wings, with a brick-red or robin red breast color on the breast and sides. There are four young ones well fledged, which every now and then stand upon the edge of the nest and try their wings. I lay upon the green sward a long time and observed the movements of the parents, with my watch in hand. They made a visit about every four minutes, on an average, varying in time from two to six minutes. They would light upon the black locust tree, the vine, the grass, and other places, clinging at times to the most delicate and extreme point of the leaves. I observed plainly green and brown grass hoppers, caterpillars, and smaller flies, sometimes one and sometimes many as six were plainly felt to the young ones, whose heads I could see above the nest. They would also carry back the refuse litter from the nest, dropping it fifty or more yards off; which same thing I saw the brown thrush, which has a nest in a climbing rose about forty yards off, also doing, they having four young ones.

INSULTS.  
I birds and four or five were taken on a 60 minute watch by a 120 inch telescope. A woodcock was taken—120 inches in length. A quail was taken—20 inches in length. A sparrow was taken—12 inches in length. A jay was taken—12 inches in length. A robin was taken—12 inches in length. A catbird was taken—12 inches in length. A bell martin was taken—12 inches in length. A dove was taken—12 inches in length. A lark was taken—12 inches in length. A quail was taken—12 inches in length. A sparrow was taken—12 inches in length. A house wren was taken—12 inches in length. A barn swallow was taken—12 inches in length. A woodpecker was taken—12 inches in length. A sapsucker was taken—12 inches in length. A catbird was taken—12 inches in length. A bell martin was taken—12 inches in length. A dove was taken—12 inches in length. A lark was taken—12 inches in length. A quail was taken—12 inches in length. A sparrow was taken—12 inches in length. A house wren was taken—12 inches in length. 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